

Introduction

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and the Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and the Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes provide guidance to cultural landscape owners, stewards and managers, landscape architects, preservation planners, architects, contractors, and project reviewers prior to and during the planning and implementation of project work.

The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for establishing professional standards and providing advice on the preservation of cultural resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In partial fulfillment of this responsibility, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects were developed in 1976. They consisted of seven sets of standards for the acquisition, protection, stabilization, preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction of historic buildings.

Since their publication in 1976, the Secretary's Standards have been used by State Historic Preservation Officers and the National Park Service to ensure that projects receiving federal money or tax benefits were reviewed in a consistent manner nationwide. The principles embodied in the Standards have also been adopted by hundreds of preservation commissions across the country in local design guidelines.

In 1992, the Standards were revised so that they could be applied to *all* historic resource types included in the National Register of Historic Places--buildings, structures, sites, objects, districts, and landscapes. The revised Standards were reduced to four sets by incorporating protection and stabilization into preservation, and by eliminating acquisition, which is no longer considered a treatment. Re-titled *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, this new, modified version addresses four treatments: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. The *Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* illustrate how to apply these four treatments to cultural landscapes in a way that meets the Standards.

Of the four, Preservation standards require retention of the greatest amount of historic fabric, including the landscape's historic form, features, and details as they have evolved over time. *Rehabilitation* standards acknowledge the need to alter or add to a cultural landscape to meet continuing or new uses while retaining the landscape's historic character. *Restoration* standards allow for the depiction of a landscape at a particular time in its history by preserving materials from the period of significance and removing materials from other periods. *Reconstruction* standards establish a framework for recreating a vanished or non-surviving landscape with new materials, primarily for interpretive purposes.

The *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, revised in 1992, were codified as 36 CFR Part 68 in the 12 July 1995 *Federal Register* (Vol. 60, No. 133) with an "effective" date of 11 August 1995. The revision replaces the 1978 and 1983 versions of 36 CFR 68 entitled *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects*.

Preservation Planning and the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes

Careful planning prior to treatment can help prevent irrevocable damage to a cultural landscape. Professional techniques for identifying, documenting, and treating cultural landscapes have advanced over the past twenty-five years and are continually being refined. As described in the National Park Service publication, *Preservation Brief #36: Protecting Cultural Landscapes*, the preservation planning process for cultural landscapes should involve: historical research; inventory and documentation of existing conditions; site analysis and evaluation of integrity and significance; development of a cultural landscape preservation approach and treatment plan; development of a cultural landscape management plan and management philosophy; development of a strategy for ongoing maintenance; and, preparation of a record of treatment and future research recommendations.

In all treatments for cultural landscapes, the following general recommendations and comments apply:

☒ Before undertaking project work, research of a cultural landscape is essential. Research findings help to identify a landscape's historic period(s) of ownership, occupancy and development, and bring greater understanding of the associations that make them significant. Research findings also provide a foundation to make educated decisions for project treatment, and can guide management, maintenance, and interpretation. In addition, research findings may be useful in satisfying compliance reviews (e.g. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as amended).

☒ Although there is no single way to inventory a landscape, the goal of documentation is to provide a record of the landscape as it exists at the present time, thus providing a baseline from which to operate. All component landscapes and features (see definitions below) that contribute to the landscape's historic character should be recorded. The level of documentation needed depends on the nature and the significance of the resource. For example, plant material

Defining Landscape Terminology

Character-defining feature - a prominent or distinctive aspect, quality, or characteristic of a cultural landscape that contributes significantly to its physical character. Land use patterns, vegetation, furnishings, decorative details and materials may be such features.

Component landscape - A discrete portion of the landscape which can be further subdivided into individual features. The landscape unit may contribute to the significance of a National Register property, such as a farmstead in a rural historic district. In some cases, the landscape unit may be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, such as a rose garden in a large urban park.

Cultural landscape - a geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein), associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values. There are four general types of cultural landscapes, not mutually exclusive: historic sites, historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes, and ethnographic landscapes.

Ethnographic landscape - a landscape containing a variety of natural and cultural resources that associated people define as heritage resources. Examples are contemporary settlements, sacred religious sites, and massive geological structures. Small plant communities, animals, subsistence and ceremonial grounds are often components.

Feature - The smallest element(s) of a landscape that contributes to the significance and that can be the subject of a treatment intervention. Examples include a woodlot, hedge, lawn, specimen plant, alley, house, meadow or open field, fence, wall, earthwork, pond or pool, bollard, orchard, or agricultural terrace.

Historic character - the sum of all visual aspects, features, materials, and spaces associated with a cultural landscape's history, i.e. the original configuration together with losses and later changes. These qualities are often referred to as character-defining.

documentation may ideally include botanical name or species, common name and size. To ensure full representation of existing herbaceous plants, care should be taken to document the landscape in different seasons. This level of research may most often be the ideal goal for smaller properties, but may prove impractical for large, vernacular landscapes.

■ Assessing a landscape as a continuum through history is critical in assessing cultural and historic value. By analyzing the landscape, change over time -the chronological and physical "layers" of the landscape -- can be understood. Based on analysis, individual features may be attributed to a discrete period of introduction, their presence or absence substantiated to a given date, and therefore the landscape's significance and integrity evaluated. In addition, analysis allows the property to be viewed within the context of other cultural landscapes.

■ In order for the landscape to be considered significant, character-defining features that convey its significance in history must not only be present, but they also must possess historic integrity. Location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association should be considered in determining whether a landscape and its character-defining features possess historic integrity.

■ Preservation planning for cultural landscapes involves a broad array of dynamic variables. Adopting comprehensive treatment and management plans, in concert with a preservation maintenance strategy, acknowledges a cultural landscape's ever-changing nature and the interrelationship of treatment, management and maintenance.

Defining Landscape Terminology

Historic designed landscape - a landscape that was consciously designed or laid out by a landscape architect, master gardener, architect, engineer, or horticulturist according to design principles, or an amateur gardener working in a recognized style or tradition. The landscape may be associated with a significant person, trend, or event in landscape architecture; or illustrate an important development in the theory and practice of landscape architecture. Aesthetic values play a significant role in designed landscapes. Examples include parks, campuses, and estates.

Historic vernacular landscape - a landscape that evolved through use by the people whose activities or occupancy shaped it. Through social or cultural attitudes of an individual, a family, or a community, the landscape reflects the physical, biological, and cultural character of everyday lives. Function plays a significant role in vernacular landscapes. This can be a farm complex or a district of historic farmsteads along a river valley. Examples include rural historic districts and agricultural landscapes.

Historic site - a landscape significant for its association with a historic event, activity or person. Examples include battlefields and presidential homes and properties.

Integrity - the authenticity of a property's historic identity, evinced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic or prehistoric period. The seven qualities of integrity as defined by the National Register Program are location, setting, feeling, association, design, workmanship, and materials.

Significance - the meaning or value ascribed to a cultural landscape based on the National Register criteria for evaluation. It normally stems from a combination of association and integrity.

Treatment - work carried out to achieve a particular historic preservation goal.

Some Factors to Consider When Selecting An Appropriate Treatment for a Cultural Landscape Project

The Standards are neither technical nor prescriptive, but are intended to promote responsible preservation practices that help protect our Nation's irreplaceable cultural resources. They cannot be used to make essential decisions about which contributing features of a cultural landscape should be retained and which can be changed. But once a specific treatment is selected, the Standards can provide the necessary philosophical framework for a consistent and holistic approach for a cultural landscape project.

A treatment is a physical intervention carried out to achieve a historic preservation goal—it cannot be considered in a vacuum. There are many practical and philosophical variables that influence the selection of a treatment for a landscape (see discussion, pages 4-8). These include, but are not limited to, the extent of historic documentation, existing physical conditions, historic value, proposed use, long and short term objectives, operational and code requirements (e.g., accessibility, fire, security) and anticipated capital improvement, staffing and maintenance costs. The impact of the treatment on any significant archeological and natural resources should also be considered in this decision making process. Therefore, it is necessary to consider a broad array of dynamic and interrelated variables in selecting a treatment for a cultural landscape preservation project (see sidebar opposite titled, "Preservation Planning and the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes.")

For some cultural landscapes, especially those that are best considered ethnographic or heritage landscapes, these Guidelines may not apply. However, if people working with these properties decide that community coherence may be affected by physical place and space—or if there is potential for loss of landscape character whose significance is rooted in the community's activities and processes (or other aspects of its history)—this guide may be of service.

❖ **Change and Continuity.** There is a balance between change and continuity in all cultural resources. Change is inherent in cultural landscapes; it results from both natural processes and human activities. Sometimes that change is subtle, barely perceptible as with the geomorphological effects on landform. At other times, it is strikingly obvious, as with vegetation, either in the cyclical changes of growth and reproduction or the progressive changes of plant competition and succession. This dynamic quality of all cultural landscapes is balanced by the continuity of distinctive characteristics retained over time. For, in spite of a landscape's constant change (or perhaps because of it), a property can still exhibit continuity of form, order, use, features, or materials. Preservation and rehabilitation treatments seek to secure and emphasize continuity while acknowledging change.



A remarkable record of human occupation exists at Canyon de Chelly National Monument in Chiricahua, Arizona—a vast mosaic of human activity through time, up to the present-day Navajo. Through preservation, an emphasis is placed on the cultural continuum, thus accommodating change and continuity. (author, 1996)

❖ **Relative Significance in History.** A cultural landscape may be a significant resource as a rare survivor or the work of an important landscape architect, horticulturist or designer. It may be the site of an important event or activity, reflect cultural traditions, or other patterns of settlement or land use. This significance may be derived from local, regional, or national importance. Cultural landscapes may be listed in the National Register of Historic Places individually or as contributing features in a historic district. In some instances, cultural landscapes may be designated National Historic Landmarks by the Secretary of the Interior for their exceptional significance in American history.

❖ **Integrity and Existing Physical Condition.** Prior to selecting a treatment, it is important to understand and evaluate the difference between integrity and existing conditions. Integrity is the authenticity of a cultural landscape's historic identity; it is the physical evidence of its significance. Existing conditions can be defined as the current physical state of the landscape's form, order, features and materials. For example, the integrity of an abandoned garden may be clear based on its extant form, features, and materials, but existing conditions may be poor, due to neglect or deferred maintenance.



"Farsided," in Brookline, Massachusetts, was the home and office of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., his sons, and his successors from 1883-1979. Olmsted is widely recognized as the founder of the profession of landscape architecture in the United States. As a historic property, Olmsted's home and office, is associated with the firm's work, but it is also significant for its landscape which illustrates Olmsted's suburban design principles. The property was designated a National Historic Landmark on May 23, 1963. (FLDNHS)



Before a treatment was selected for the Piper Farm at Antislavem Battlefield, it was important to understand that the farm complex had a high level of integrity for its turn-of-the-century development. In fact, if the landscape was "restored" to the period of the battle, it would have resulted in the removal of this farm complex and subsequent loss of significant history. (author, 1994)

Geographical Context. The surroundings of a cultural landscape, whether an urban neighborhood or rural farming area (see center top left and right), may contribute to its significance and its historic character and should be considered prior to treatment. The setting may contain component landscapes or features (see definitions, page 9) which fall within the property's historic boundaries. It also may be comprised of separate properties beyond the landscape's boundaries, and perhaps those of the National Register listing. The landscape context can include the overall pattern of the circulation networks, views and vistas into and out of the landscape, land use, natural features, clusters of structures, and division of properties.

Use. Historic, current, and proposed use of the cultural landscape must be considered prior to treatment selection. Historic use is directly linked to its significance (bottom left), while current and proposed use(s) can affect integrity and existing conditions. Parameters may vary from one landscape to another. For example, in one agricultural landscape, continuation of the historic use can lead to changes in the physical form of a farm to accommodate new crops and equipment. In another agricultural property, new uses may be adapted within the landscape's existing form, order and features.



Two aerial photographs (center top left and right) of the changing geographical context at Rancho Los Alamitos taken a half century apart, from expansive farm lands to suburban subdivision— is eminently clear. This dramatic change to the property's context will have an effect on future planning and treatment recommendations. (Rancho Los Alamitos Foundation)

Acoma Pueblo, (opposite) located 60 miles west of Albuquerque, New Mexico, is one of the oldest, continuously inhabited villages in the United States, dating back over 1,000 years. Many of its historic uses are still evident in the village today as reflected by the traditional construction of adobe-masonry architecture, outside ovens and outhouses. (author, 1996)

The core of the Anasazi complex at Chaco Culture National Historical Park, Bloomfield, New Mexico, (opposite page bottom) has been preserved and protected since it was designated a National Monument in 1907. (courtesy NPS)





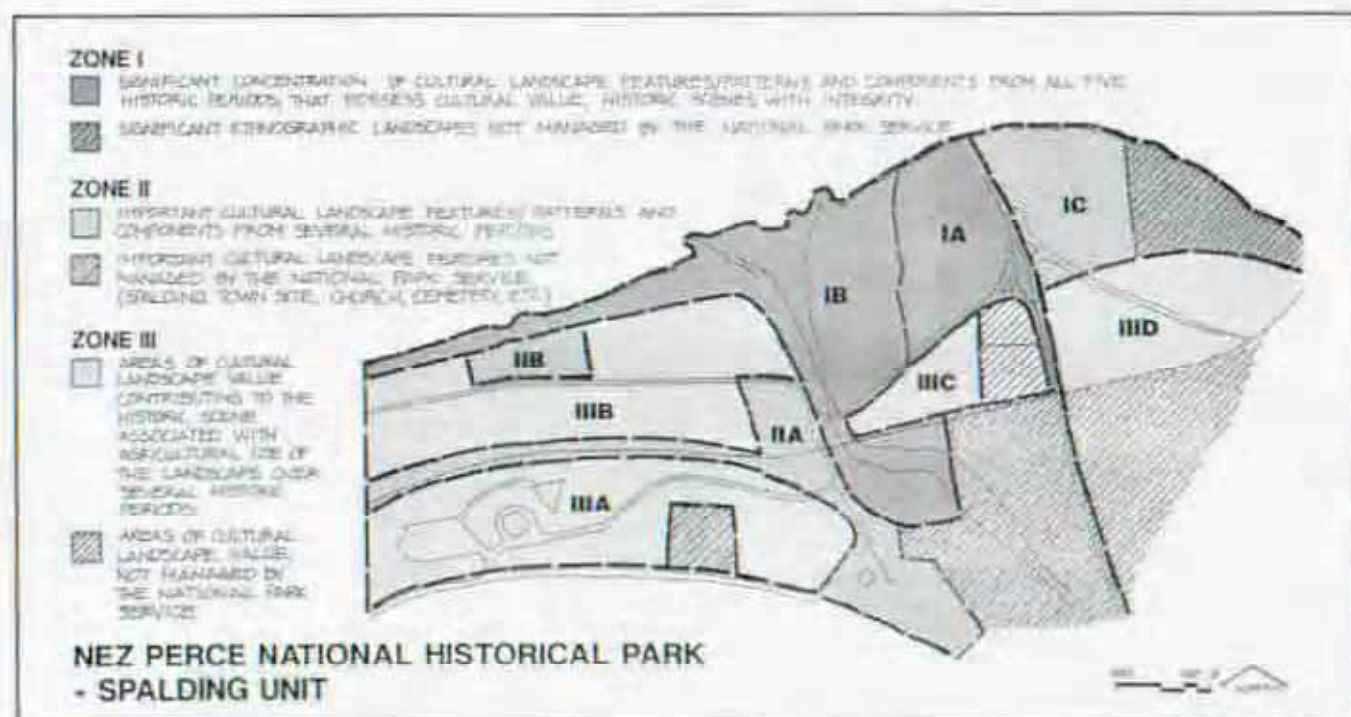
❖ **Archeological Resources.** Prehistoric and historic archeological resources may be found in cultural landscapes above and below the ground [below] and even under water. Examples of prehistoric archeological resources include prehistoric mounds built by Native-Americans. Examples of historic archeological resources include remnants of buildings, cliff dwellings, and villages; or, features of a sunken garden, mining camp, or battlefield. These resources not only have historical value, but can also reveal significant information about a cultural landscape. The appropriate treatment of a cultural landscape includes the identification and preservation of significant archeological resources. Many landscape preservation projects include a site archeologist.

❖ **Natural Systems.** Cultural landscapes often derive their character from a human response to natural features and systems. The significance of these natural resources may be based on their cultural associations and from their inherent ecological values. Natural resources form natural systems that are interdependent on one another and which may extend well beyond the boundary of the historic



property. For example, these systems can include geology, hydrology, plant and animal habitats, and climate. Some of these natural resources are particularly susceptible to disturbances caused by changes in landscape management. Many natural resources such as wetlands or rare species fall under local, state, and federal regulations which must be considered. Since natural resource protection is a specialized field distinct from cultural landscape preservation, a preservation planning team may want to include an expert in this area to address specific issues or resources found within a cultural landscape. Natural systems are an integral part of the cultural landscape and must be considered when selecting an appropriate treatment.

*Invasive plant materials such as *Potamogeton* (opposite) have overtaken sections of the water's edge along the Emerald Necklace Parks in Boston, Massachusetts diminishing the park's historic character. While developing a rehabilitation plan for the parks, both natural systems and cultural resource values are being considered. (author, 1989)*



The management strategy for Nez Perce National Historical Park, Spalding, Indiana, divides the landscape into management zones that considers significant concentrations of cultural landscape features and patterns; representation from historic periods; and the degree of integrity. (courtesy NPS)



❖ **Management and Maintenance.** Management strategies are long-term and comprehensive. They can be one of the means for implementing a landscape preservation plan. Maintenance tasks can be day-to-day, seasonal, or cyclical, as determined by management strategies. Although routine horticultural activities, such as mowing and weeding, or general grounds maintenance, such as re-laying pavement or curbs, may appear routine, such activities can cumulatively alter the character of a landscape. In contrast, well-conceived management and maintenance activities can sustain character and integrity over an extended period. Therefore, both the management and maintenance of cultural landscapes should be considered when selecting a treatment.

❖ **Interpretation.** Interpretation can help in understanding and "reading" the landscape. The tools and techniques of interpretation can include guided walks, self-guided brochures, computer-aided tours, exhibits, and wayside stations. Interpretive goals should compliment treatment selection, reflecting the landscape's significance and historic character. A cultural landscape may possess varying levels of integrity or even differing periods of significance, both of which can result in a multi-faceted approach to interpretation. In some cases, interpretation and a sound interpretive strategy can inform decisions about how to treat a landscape.

The Lord and Burnham greenhouse at Lyndhurst in Tarrytown, New York, now stabilized and protected is interpreted as a ruin. The 1881 structure contributes to the landscape's significance and its future treatment and management are an integral part of a current Historic Landscape Report. (Lyndhurst archives and author, 1990)

Special Requirements. Work that must be done to meet accessibility, health and safety, environmental protection or energy efficiency needs is usually not part of the overall process of protecting cultural landscapes; rather this work is assessed for its potential impact on the cultural landscape.

❖ **Accessibility Considerations.** It is often necessary to make modifications to cultural landscapes so that they will be in compliance with current accessibility code requirements. Accessibility to certain cultural landscapes is required by three specific Federal laws: the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. Federal rules, regulations and standards have been developed which provide guidance on how to accomplish access to historic areas for people with disabilities. Work must be carefully planned and undertaken so that it does not result in the loss of character-defining features. The goal is to provide the highest level of access with the lowest level of impact on the integrity of the landscape.

❖ **Health and Safety Considerations.** In undertaking work on cultural landscapes, it is necessary to consider the impact that meeting current health and safety codes (for example, public health, life safety, fire safety, electrical, seismic, structural, and building codes) will have on character-defining features. For example, upgrading utility service, storm or sewer drainage systems requires trenching which can disturb soils, plants and archeological resources. Special coordination with the responsible code officials at the state, county, or municipal level may be required. Securing required permits and licenses is best



To comply with the ADA, an accessibility solution was provided for at San Francisco's City Hall. The design preserves the historic hedge along the building foundation, and conceals the new ramp behind a new hedgerow. When viewing the main building elevation, the symmetry of the facade and its foundation planting have been preserved. (author, 1993)



These unique historic lightposts at a small park in Sausalito, California, have been preserved. An integral part of the project work included a code-required upgrade and improvement of the fixtures for energy efficiency. (author, 1993)

accomplished early in project planning work. It is often necessary to look beyond the "letter" of code requirements to their underlying purpose; most modern codes allow for alternative approaches and reasonable variance to achieve compliance.

❖ Environmental Protection Requirements.

Many cultural landscapes are affected by requirements that address environmental issues. Legislation at the federal, state and municipal level have established rules and regulations for dealing with a variety of natural resources -- including water, air, soil and wildlife. Work predicated on such legislation must be carefully planned and undertaken so that it does not result in the loss of a landscape's character-defining features. Securing required permits and licenses should be considered early in project work, and special efforts should be made to coordinate with public agencies responsible for overseeing specific environmental concerns.

❖ Energy Efficiency. Some features of a cultural landscape, such as buildings, structures, vegetation and furnishings, can play an energy-conserving role. Therefore, prior to undertaking project work to achieve greater energy efficiency, the first step should always be to identify and evaluate existing historic features to assess their inherent energy conserving potential. If it is determined that such work is appropriate, then it needs to be carried out with particular care to insure that the landscape's historic character is retained.

Using the Standards and Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes

The *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* are designed to be applied to *all* historic resource types included in the National Register of Historic Places--buildings, sites, structures, landscapes, districts, and objects. The *Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* apply to a *specific* resource type: landscapes.

The *Guidelines* have been prepared to assist in applying the Standards to all project work involving the treatment of cultural landscapes; consequently, they are not meant to give case-specific advice or address exceptions or rare instances. Therefore, it is recommended that the advice of qualified cultural landscape preservation professionals be obtained early in the planning stage of the project. Such professionals may have expertise in landscape architecture, landscape history, landscape archeology (ex. pollen analysis), forestry, horticulture (ex. pomology, natural resources, archeology, architecture, engineering (e.g. civil, structural, mechanical, traffic), cultural geography, wildlife, ecology, ethnography, interpretation, material and object conservation, landscape maintenance and management or other related fields. Historians are generally part of the specialized team, and bring expertise in the history of landscape architecture, architecture, art, industry, agriculture, society, etc. Project teams are often directed by a landscape architect with specific expertise in landscape preservation. This is not to say that all cultural landscape projects require a team representing all of these disciplines. It is recommended that professionals in disciplines relevant to the landscapes' inherent features be represented.

The *Guidelines* apply to cultural landscapes of all types, sizes, and materials. The *Guidelines* begin with an overview and description of the larger organizational elements of the landscape (spatial organization and land patterns), followed by those individual features (topography, vegetation, circulation, water features, structures, buildings, furnishings, and objects) that may contribute to the landscape's historic character. A graphic symbol has been assigned to each of these organizational elements and character-defining features to allow the reader to readily locate a feature at a glance. (See pages 18-19)

Each of the four sections of this publication is devoted to one of the four treatments: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. Each section contains one set of standards and accompanying guidelines that

can be used throughout the course of a project. The four sections begin with a definition of the treatment, followed by the treatment standards, and a brief explanation of the philosophical framework from which to make educated treatment decisions. The distinct goals that comprise each treatment standard, (for example, "Identify, Retain and Preserve Historic Materials,") are first discussed in narrative form, and are then amplified in parallel "**Recommended**" and "**Not Recommended**" examples that follow. The sections are illustrated by case-study examples of project work, which include before and after photographs, historic documentation, plans, sections, perspectives and other illustrative materials.

The actions and techniques that are consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties" are listed in the "**Recommended**" column on the left; those which are inconsistent with the Standards are listed in the "**Not Recommended**" column on the right. These examples serve to illustrate a variety of applications to project work; not every possible alternative can be included. Therefore, the *Standards and Guidelines* narrative introducing each section should be used as a **model process** to follow when considering and evaluating a particular cultural landscape and its potential compatibility with a particular treatment.

Finally, the publication concludes with two appendices. The first contains an annotated bibliography of selected readings in the areas of preservation planning and treatment. The second provides a directory of national organizations that can assist in the protection of cultural landscapes.

Organization of the Guidelines

Cultural landscapes are composed of a collection of features which are *organized in space*. They include small-scale features such as individual fountains or statuary, as well as patterns of fields and forest which define the spatial character of the landscape. Individual features in the landscape should never be viewed in isolation, but in relationship to the landscape as a whole. Each situation may vary, and some features may often be more important than others. For example, circulation may be an important historic element in one landscape, while in another it may have little if any significance.

Overall, it is the arrangement and the interrelationship of these character-defining features as they existed during the period of significance that is most critical to consider prior to treatment. As such, landscape features should always be assessed as they relate to the property as a whole. Thus, spatial organization and land patterns are always listed first in each section of the Guidelines.

Organizational Elements of the Landscape



Spatial Organization and Land Patterns refers to the three-dimensional organization and patterns of spaces in a landscape, like the arrangement of rooms in a house. Spatial organization is created

by the landscape's cultural and natural features. Some form visual links or barriers (such as fences and hedgerows); others create spaces and visual connections in the landscape (such as topography and open water). The organization of such features defines and creates spaces in the landscape and often is closely related to land use. Both the functional and visual relationship between spaces is integral to the historic character of a property. In addition, it is important to recognize that spatial relationships may change over time due to a variety of factors, including: environmental impacts (e.g. drought, flood), plant growth and succession, and changes in land use or technology.



Vegetation features may be individual plants, as in the case of a specimen tree, or groups of plants such as a hedge, allee, agricultural field, planting bed, or a naturally-occurring plant community or habitat. Vegetation includes evergreen or deciduous trees, shrubs, and ground covers, and both woody and herbaceous plants. Vegetation may derive its significance from historical associations, horticultural or genetic value, or aesthetic or functional qualities. It is a primary dynamic component of the landscape's character; therefore, the treatment of cultural landscapes must recognize the continual process of germination, growth, seasonal change, aging, decay, and death of plants. The character of individual plants is derived from habit, form, color, texture, bloom, fruit, fragrance, scale and context.

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Character-Defining Features of the Landscape

There are many character-defining features that collectively contribute to the historic character of a cultural landscape. These are as follows:



Topography, the shape of the ground plane and its height or depth, is a character-defining feature of the landscape. Topography may occur naturally or as a result of human manipulation. For

example, topographic features may contribute to the creation of outdoor spaces, serve a functional purpose, or provide visual interest.



Circulation features may include, roads, parkways, drives, trails, walks, paths, parking areas, and canals. Such features may occur individually or be linked to form networks or systems. The character of

circulation features is defined by factors such as alignment, width, surface and edge treatment, grade, materials, and infrastructure.



Water features may be aesthetic as well as functional components of the landscape. They may be linked to the natural hydrologic system or may be fed artificially; their associated water supply, drainage, and mechanical systems are important components. Water features include fountains, pools, cascades, irrigation systems, ponds, lakes, streams, and aqueducts. The characteristics of water features

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and reflective qualities; and associated plant and animal life, as well as water quality. Special consideration may be required due to the seasonal changes in water such as variations in water table, precipitation, and freezing.



Structures, site furnishings, and objects may contribute to a landscape's significance and historic character. Structures are non-habitable, constructed features, unlike buildings which have walls and roofs and are generally habitable. Structures may be significant individually or they may simply contribute to the historic character of the landscape. They may include walls, terraces, arbors, gazebos, follies, tennis courts, playground equipment, greenhouses, cold frames, steps, bridges, and dams. The placement and arrangement of buildings and structures are important to the character of the landscape; these guidelines emphasize the relationship between buildings, structures, and other features which comprise the historic landscape. For additional and specific guidance related to the treatment of historic buildings, please consult the *Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring and Reconstructing Historic Buildings*.

Site furnishings and objects generally are small-scale elements in the landscape that may be functional, decorative, or both. They can include benches, lights, signs, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, fences, tree grates, clocks, flagpoles, sculpture, monuments, memorials, planters, and urns. They may be movable, used seasonally, or permanently installed. Site furnishings and objects occur as singular items, in groups of similar or identical features, or as part of a system (e.g. signage). They may be designed or built for a specific site, available through a catalog, or created as vernacular pieces associated with a particular region or cultural group. They may be significant in their own right, for example, as works of art or as the work of an important designer.